are alternative raw-materials for manufacture of Polyester. PTA is a later entrant and stoichometrically more DMT is required that PTA for one tonne Polyester.

(b) The requirement of DMT and PTA depends on the users who would assess their needs based on the various factors like existing equipments additional facilities required etc. Government's policy would be to meet the demands of both DMT and PTA to the extent these items are required by the user-industry.

Consequences of stoppage of R.M.S. sorting

1198. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the stoppage of sorting by R.M.S. the delivery of letters from Patna to Calcutta which used to take two days earlier now takes five days and ten days for the neighbouring areas like Asansol and Burdwan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of this inordinate delay private dak agencies are emerging fast; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Long term plan for export by Public Sector Units

1199. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the public sector units to draw up a long term plan for export by public sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the public sector thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (c) With a view to broad-basing of their operations and to play a bigger role in the export effort of the country, the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Department of Public Enterprises had been asked to draw up long term export plans. The PSUs. have since drawn up their tentative long term export plans.

Closing down of non-viable public sector undertakings

1200. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to close down non-viable public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TIWARI): (a) No decision has been taken to close down non-viable public sector undertakings.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in the number of sick Industrial Units

1201. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the number of sick industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of (i) small scale; (ii) medium scale and (iii)